

REMARKS

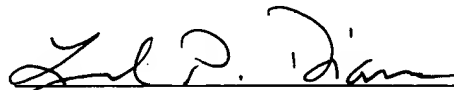
Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, 18-22, 24-28, 30-34, and 36 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 being in independent form.

Both the Summary of the Invention and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended herein. In particular, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended so that it corresponds to the embodiment of Claim 1. No new matter has been added by this Amendment After Allowance.

This Amendment After Allowance is deemed to raise no new issues, require no new search, and require no substantial work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. Entry of this Amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION OF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

--An object of the present invention is to solve the above-described problems. In accordance with this invention, apparatuses and methods in accordance with various embodiments of the invention are provided which achieve the object of the invention. In one preferred embodiment of the invention, a communication apparatus is provided that includes [[a]] first coding [[unit]] means for creating first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method, [[a]] second coding [[unit]] means for creating second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding method, [[a]] control [[unit]] means for switchably selecting at least one of the first coded data created by the first audio coding method and the second coded data created by the second audio coding method, and [[a]] sending ~~unit (transmitter)~~ means for sending at least one of the first coded data and the second coded data to another communication apparatus. The sending [[unit]] means sends the first coded data and the second coded data when the control [[unit]] means switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with the other communication apparatus. The control unit does not select the second coded data until a predetermined time has passed since the second coding unit starts creating the second coded data.

In accordance with another aspect of this invention, a method of operating a communication apparatus is provided. The method comprises (a) a first coding step of [[for]] creating first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method, (b) a second coding step of [[for]] creating second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding

method, (c) a control step of [[for]] switchably selecting at least one of the first coded data created by the first audio coding method and the second coded data created by the second audio coding method, and (d) a sending step of [[for]] sending at least one of the first coded data and the second coded data to another communication apparatus. The sending step [[sends]] includes sending the first coded data and the second coded data when the control step switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with the other communication apparatus. The control step does not select the second coded data until a predetermined time has passed since the second coding step [[starts]] has started creating the second coded data.

A communication apparatus in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention comprises [[a]] receiving [[unit]] means for receiving at least one of first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method and second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding method, [[a]] first decoding [[unit]] means for decoding the first coded data, [[a]] second decoding [[unit]] means for decoding the second coded data, [[a]] control [[unit]] means for switchably selecting at least one of an audio signal outputted from the first decoding [[unit]] means and an audio signal outputted from the second decoding [[unit]] means, and [[an]] output [[unit]] means for outputting the audio signal selected by the control [[unit]] means. The receiving [[unit]] means receives the first coded data and the second coded data when the control [[unit]] means switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with another communication apparatus.

The control [[unit]] means does not select the audio signal outputted from the second decoding [[unit]] means until a predetermined time has passed since the second decoding [[unit]] means starts decoding the second coded data.

A method of operating a communication apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention comprises (a) a receiving step, of [[for]] receiving at least one of first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method and second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding method, (b) a first decoding step, of [[for]] decoding the first coded data, (c) a second decoding step, of [[for]] decoding the second coded data, (d) a control step, of [[for]] switchably selecting at least one of an audio signal outputted in the first decoding step and an audio signal outputted in the second decoding step, and (e) an output step, of [[for]] outputting the audio signal selected in the control step. The receiving step in this embodiment ~~receives~~ includes receiving the first coded data and the second coded data when the control step switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with another communication apparatus. The control step does not select the audio signal outputted in the second decoding step until a predetermined time has passed since the second decoding step starts decoding the second coded data.

~~Furthermore, as another embodiment, a~~ A communication apparatus ~~includes~~ according to another embodiment of the present invention comprises a first coder, arranged for creating first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method, and a second coder, arranged for creating second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio

coding method. A controller switchably selects at least one of the first coded data created by the first audio coding method and the second coded data created by the second audio coding method, and a sender is arranged for sending at least one of the first coded data and the second coded data to another communication apparatus. The sender sends the first coded data and the second coded data when the controller switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with the other communication apparatus. The controller does not select the second coded data until a predetermined time has passed since the second coder starts creating the second coded data.

~~Furthermore, as another embodiment, a~~ A communication apparatus ~~includes according to another embodiment of the present invention comprises a~~ receiver, arranged for receiving at least one of first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method and second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding method. A first decoder is arranged for decoding the first coded data, and a second decoder is arranged for decoding the second coded data. A controller switchably selects at least one of an audio signal outputted from the first decoder and an audio signal outputted from the second decoder. An outputter outputs the audio signal selected by the controller. The receiver receives the first coded data and the second coded data when the controller switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with another communication apparatus. The controller does not select the audio signal outputted from the second

decoder until a predetermined time has passed since the second decoder starts decoding the second coded data.

Still other objects of the present invention, and the advantages thereof, will become fully apparent from the following detailed description of the various embodiments of the present invention.--

MARKED-UP VERSION OF ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~--A packet communication device (sending side) sends audio and/or video signals coded by a first coding method and audio and/or video signals coded by a second coding method until another communicating party gets ready completely when a coding method is switched from the first coding method to the second coding method during communication with the other communicating party. The packet communication apparatus (receiving side) outputs audio and/or video signals decoded by using a second decoding method after decoding processes of the second decoding method corresponding to the second coding method become stable. Having this construction can prevent the occurrence of noise, turbulence of video, and/or interruption of audio and/or video even when the coding method is switched during communication with another communicating party.~~ A communication apparatus is provided that includes first coding means for creating first coded data including an audio signal coded by a first audio coding method, second coding means for creating second coded data including an audio signal coded by a second audio coding method that is different from the first audio coding method, control means for switchably selecting at least one of the first coded data created by the first audio coding method and the second coded data created by the second audio coding method, and sending means for sending at least one of the first coded data and the second coded data to another communication apparatus. The sending means sends the first coded data and the second coded data when the control means switches selection from the first audio coding method to the second audio coding method while the communication apparatus is in communication with the other communication apparatus. The control unit does not select

the second coded data until a predetermined time has passed since the second coding unit starts creating the second coded data.

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